

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, should we count or should we take a poll? The census debate boils down to that difficult question.

The Democrats say, why should the Constitution stand in the way of rigging the numbers the way we want? After all, the Democrats are either unaware of Article I, section 2 of the Constitution that states in clear language that Congress shall direct that a census be conducted using an actual enumeration, or they simply wish to ignore it.

Either way, it is troubling that one party is willing to go so far to trample on the Constitution just for political purposes.

Most Americans do not have a Ph.D. in English or in American constitutional history. But most Americans do believe that sampling, guessing, or taking a poll does not qualify as actual enumeration, also believe the Constitution actually means what it says.

They are pretty tired of liberal Democrats inventing out of whole cloth things that are in the Constitution, no matter how many liberal experts in Washington tell us otherwise.

#### HMO REFORM

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, Americans are frustrated with their managed care plans. It is no wonder; HMO horror stories abound. Every day we hear stories of people being denied care, doctors being forbidden from discussing treatment options, and patients unable to get justice when things go wrong.

Americans want a few simple things from their HMOs. In an emergency, they want care without having to worry about whether all necessary treatments will be covered. They want the right to visit the specialist who can address their health problems and the right to get prescription drugs they need.

They want accountability from HMOs and insurance companies when they are injured by abusive practices. They want absolute privacy in their medical records and protection from discrimination on the basis of their genetic information.

Unfortunately, we have not been given the opportunity to have any hearings or a markup on these issues, and, therefore, I encourage my colleagues to carefully consider the great need for legislation that will guarantee patient protection and put the emphasis on managing care rather than managing costs. I urge us to settle for nothing less.

We have a historic opportunity to end these horror stories. Let us not waste this opportunity on half-baked attempts at reform. Let us take this

chance to guarantee the protections that Americans want and need in their health care plans.

#### VETO OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT BILL WAS WRONG

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, the President's late night, quiet veto this week of Education Savings Accounts—timed in order to miss the evening news—means that those that produced generations of education failure have dodged the bullet again.

The other side should explain to America why encouraging parents to save for their children's education is a bad thing. Oh, they are long on heartwarming rhetoric about their care and compassion for "the children" and for "education;" but when it comes to education reform legislation that threatens the special interests that gave us these failing schools in the first place, they are woefully short on action.

They send their own kids to private schools, but then they tell working parents who want to save for their children's education "no."

Madam Speaker, Republicans in Congress are not content to simply talk about "the children," we will fight for children, and for the world-class education they deserve. We will continue the fight for working parents who want to be able to save for their children's education through Education Saving Accounts.

#### VIGILANCE OF BROWN TREE SNAKE NEEDED IN HAWAII

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to express my support for provisions in the Interior Appropriations bill we are debating today for the funding of the Brown Tree Snake control efforts.

The consequences of the Brown Tree Snake becoming established on any of the Hawaiian Islands would be devastating. We have only to look at Guam to understand the potential extinction of many species will, not might, result from the introduction of the snake to Hawaii.

Guam now experiences an instance of more than 12,000 of these snakes per square mile. Entire species have disappeared from Guam since World War II when the snake was accidentally brought to the island, most probably aboard military aircraft which had visited areas of the South Pacific in the snake's natural habitat.

The Interior Appropriation bill contains \$2.1 million for prevention, education, and inspection programs, an increase of \$500,000 over last year. We need to step up our vigilance in Hawaii

against this invasive species which has brought wildlife ruin elsewhere.

The scientific community has not yet developed an effective eradication method. Although I hope we can soon understand how to control and eliminate the snake, until that time, the only action we can and must take is preventing its introduction into Hawaii.

I am very pleased that the Committee on Appropriations has recommended an increase, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in achieving the highest funding level to achieve our goals.

#### PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Patient Protection Act, the Republican plan to provide greater accessibility, affordability, and accountability in our Nation's health care system.

This plan will make a real difference in the lives of America's working women for a lot of reasons. Small businesses in this country are increasingly dominated by women who are looking to make their mark in a growing economy. Unfortunately, right now the cost of health care makes it very tough for them to purchase health care for themselves and their families.

That is why the Republican plan makes the cost of health care for small businesses 100 percent deductible, and it allows small businesses to band together to purchase health care at the same discounted rates that are currently enjoyed by big business.

These sensible reforms, combined with our plans giving a woman's right to choose an OB/GYN as her prime caregiver, are essential to improving access to health care for the many women in this country who are helping to drive this Nation's economy. They stand in stark contrast to the Democrat bill which does nothing to make health care more affordable or accessible to American women.

I urge my colleagues to support the Patient Protection Act when it comes to the floor tomorrow.

#### MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, as a cancer survivor, I can tell you that when you are diagnosed with a deadly illness you come face to face with your own mortality. While you are wondering whether you are going to live or you are going to die, you should not have to worry that 2,000 miles away an HMO accountant is making the decisions about what kind of treatment that they are going to provide or what kind of drugs can be provided for your illness. These are the kinds of decisions that ought to be made by doctors and patients, period.